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Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

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Information on the security situation generally and provincially

A document produced by the *United Kingdom Parliament House of Commons Library* in January 2018 states that:

“...although there has overall been an improvement in the domestic security situation, extremist groups like the Pakistani Taliban continue to carry out terrorist operations. The north-western tribal areas and Pakistan's biggest province, Balochistan, remain restive. There has been a near-breakdown of law and order in the Pakistan's largest city, Karachi” (United Kingdom Parliament House of Commons Library (24 January 2018) *Pakistan: January 2018 update*).

In January 2018 a report issued by *Human Rights Watch* reviewing events of the preceding year notes:

“Although Pakistan witnessed fewer attacks by Islamist militants than in previous years, scores of people were killed in attacks primarily targeting law enforcement officials and religious minorities” (Human Rights Watch (18 January 2018) *World Report 2018: Pakistan*).

This document also states that:

“The human rights crisis in Balochistan continued with reports of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings of suspected Baloch militants. Baloch nationalists and other militant groups continued attacking non-Baloch civilians” (ibid).

In January 2018 the *Pak Institute for Peace Studies* notes that:

“The internal security situation improved further in 2017 with a 16 percent decrease in the number of terrorist attacks in Pakistan, compared to previous year” (Pak Institute for Peace Studies (6 January 2018) *Pakistan Security Report 2017*, p.13).

This report also states that:

“Militant, nationalist/insurgent and violent sectarian groups carried out, in all, 370 terrorist attacks in 64 districts of Pakistan during the year 2017...” (ibid, p.19).

It is also noted in this document that:

“Just as in past three years, the highest number of terrorist attacks for any one region of Pakistan was reported from Balochistan (165 attacks, or over 44 percent of the total attacks in Pakistan)”(ibid, pp.20-21).

A report issued in October 2017 by the *Asia Foundation* points out that

“Pakistan's security landscape remains volatile and complex due to sectarian and ethno-political tensions and the intricate web of terrorist and militant groups in the

country” (Asia Foundation (18 October 2017) *The State of Conflict and Violence in Asia [Pakistan excerpt]*).

In August 2017 the *European Asylum Support Office* issued a report on security in Pakistan which includes a map of the provincial and administrative divisions (European Asylum Support Office (August 2017) *EASO Country of Origin Information Report Pakistan*, p.13).

A report published in January 2018 by the *Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Study* notes that the:

“Year 2017 witnessed 950 overall violent incidents (security forces actions and militant attacks combined) in which 1395 people were killed while 1965 others were injured. When compared with 2016, there has been more than 41 percent reduction in overall incidents and almost 25 percent reduction in deaths while number of injured have gone up by more than two percent” (Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Study (22 January 2018) *Pakistan: Security Assessment 2017*, p.11).

This report also states that:

“...Balochistan was the most troubled province/ region...” (ibid, p.11).

It is also stated in this report that:

“Security situation in Balochistan remained volatile as the province, continuing with the previous trends, witnessed highest number of militant attacks in 2017 as compared to other regions” (ibid, p.25).

This report also notes that:

“Security situation in FATA deteriorated in the year 2017 after witnessing a constant reduction in violent incidents. Although the year 2017 also witnessed further reduction in militant attacks, as compared to last year, yet resultant deaths and injuries have gone up suggesting that militant attacks this year were comparatively more lethal and well organized” (ibid, p.29).

It is also pointed out in this report that:

“A further reduction in militant attacks was observed in KPK as the province witnessed 75 militant attacks in which 92 people were killed and 136 others were injured against 125 militant attacks, 174 killings and 386 injured in the previous year. Thus, there has been 40 percent reduction in militant attacks, 47 percent reduction in deaths and 55 percent reduction in injuries” (ibid, p.33).

This document also states that:

“Punjab witnessed 15 militant attacks in which 59 people were killed and 208 others injured while in previous year, the province had witnessed 14 militant attacks in which 60 people were killed and 280 others were injured. So in terms of figures, 2017 was not entirely different as the figures of attacks and deaths were quite identical though number of injured has gone down as compared to previous year” (ibid, pp.35-36).

It is also pointed out in this document that:

“Following the previous trend, militant attacks in Sindh witnessed further reduction yet the number of deaths and injuries have gone up as compared to previous year as the province witnessed 40 militant attacks in 2017 in which 112 people were killed and 303 others were injured against 67 militant attacks, 61 deaths and 125 injured in 2016” (ibid, p.38).

This publication also notes that:

“Overall security situation in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) and Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) remained stable throughout the year...” (ibid, p.41).

A document issued in January 2018 by the *South Asia Terrorism Portal* commenting on Balochistan states that:

“While terrorism-related violence in the Province has dropped to a seven-year low, the long standing discontent of the ethnic Baloch with regard to the Federal Government's persistent neglect and injustice continues to rise” (South Asia Terrorism Portal (22 January 2018) *Balochistan: Smoldering Fires*, p.4).

A report issued in January 2018 by the *United Kingdom Parliament House of Commons Library* notes:

“The latest phase of the nationalist insurgency in Balochistan began in 2004, following previous outbreaks in 1948, 1958 and 1973-77” (United Kingdom Parliament House of Commons Library (2 January 2018) *Balochistan: Pakistan's forgotten conflict*).

This document also points out that:

“There was little sign of a let-up in the violence as 2017 was succeeded by 2018. In late-December 2017, it was reported that a plan by pro-independence insurgents to assassinate the Governor of Balochistan, Mohammed Khan Achakzai, had been foiled. On the last day of 2017 there was a raid on the hideout of a group of fighters in the Gul Kach area, in which two soldiers were killed. The first day of 2018 saw two bomb blasts in the town of Chaman, injuring eight people, including three security personnel”(ibid).

The *South Asia Terrorism Portal* in January 2018 notes commenting on Sindh that:

“According to partial data compiled by the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP), Sindh has recorded 12 fatalities – 10 terrorists, one civilian, and one Security Force (SF) trooper – in the current year so far (data till January 28, 2018). During the corresponding period of 2017, Sindh had registered 10 fatalities (eight civilians and two SF personnel). Through 2017, Sindh recorded 243 fatalities, including 114 civilians, 23 SF personnel, and 106 terrorists, in comparison to 217 such fatalities in 2016, including 76 civilians, 24 SF personnel, and 117 terrorists. Thus, the declining trend of overall-terrorism related fatalities established since 2014 continued through 2017” (South Asia Terrorism Portal (29 January 2018) *Sindh: Lingering Troubles*, p.1).

A report released in January 2018 by the *South Asia Terrorism Portal* states:

“Though total terrorism related fatalities in FATA declined in FATA in 2017, escalating fatalities in the civilian and SF categories are grounds for alarm...” (South Asia Terrorism Portal (15 January 2018) *FATA: Troubled Territory*, p.3

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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